

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 H-03 SCA-01 L-03 CPR-02 INR-10

RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 /076 R

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R 220004Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 057374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: REPORTED DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS TO AMCITS IN
LENINGRAD

1. MR. AND MRS. FRED BACHNER HAVE INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT
THAT THEIR REQUEST TO SEE AN AMERICAN CONSUL DURING THEIR
DETENTION FOR QUESTIONING BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AT
LENINGRAD AIRPORT DECEMBER 7, 1973 WAS DENIED BY LENINGRAD
BORDER POLICE ON GROUNDS "CONSUL WAS NO LONGER ON DUTY."

2. BACHNERS WERE SUBJECTED TO INTERROGATION AND THOROUGH
SEARCH OF BELONGINGS AS THEY WERE BOARDING PAN AM FLIGHT
904 FROM LENINGRAD TO NEW YORK DECEMBER 7. DURING
QUESTIONING, BORDER POLICE CLAIMED BACHNERS HAD BEEN
APPREHENDED PREVIOUS EVENING BY LENINGRAD POLICE AS
BACHNERS WERE LEAVING PRIVATE SOVIET APARTMENT. BORDER
POLICE ALSO CLAIMED THAT BACHNERS WERE THEN TAKEN TO
LENINGRAD MILITIA STATION WHERE THEY SIGNED DOCUMENT.

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3. BACHNERS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT ON DECEMBER 6 THEY

VISITED PRIVATE LENINGRAD APARTMENT OF SOVIET JEWISH FAMILY DENIED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. BACHNERS GAVE FAMILY FEW ITEMS OF PERSONAL CLOTHING, BUT HAD NO CONTACT WITH SOVIET POLICE UNTIL INCIDENT AT AIRPORT DECEMBER 7.

4. BACHNERS WERE ALLOWED TO BOARD PLANE AFTER ABOUT ONE HOUR'S DETENTION. THEY AGREED TO SIGN DOCUMENT IN RUSSIAN WHICH THEY WERE TOLD WAS SUMMARY OF INTERROGATION, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT KNOW RUSSIAN AND WERE NOT GIVEN COPY OF DOCUMENT.

5. CONGEN IS REQUESTED TO RAISE INCIDENT WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, POINTING OUT APPARENT VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH ONE OF US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION ("THE RECEIVING STATE SHALL IN NO WAY RESTRICT THE ACCESS OF NATIONALS OF THE SENDING STATE TO ITS CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS."). CONGEN SHOULD SEEK FULL REPORT OF INCIDENT AND ASK THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT VIOLATION OF US CITIZENS' RIGHTS UNDER CONSULAR CONVENTION DOES NOT RE-OCCUR.

6. CONGRESSMAN PEYSER INTERESTED.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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To: LENINGRAD
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